

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/943,834	FERRERI ET AL.
	Examiner Asfand M. Sheikh	Art Unit 3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to 4/24/2007.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11, 13-14, 16-20, 22-24.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/31/2001
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Duane N. Moore on 31-May-2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims, Claim 1, line 18 the terminology "removes all ordering parameters including", was changed to - removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least -

In the claims, Claim 8, line 20 the terminology "removes all ordering parameters including", was changed to - removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least -

In the claims, Claim 13, line 16 the terminology "removes all ordering parameters including", was changed to - removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least -

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In the claims, Claim 19, line 19 the terminology "removes all ordering parameters including", was changed to - removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least -

Drawings

The drawings filed on 31-August-2001 are accepted.

Supplemental Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement for the reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a method and program storage device for forecasting complement requirements for devices being manufactured. Independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 19, teach the novel feature of performing a minimum profile technique that removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least order minimums, order maximums, leadtimes, transit times, and order sizing.

3. The following reference has been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention(s). The prior art mostly relates to a method for level-by-level explosion for material requirement planning.

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Yamada (United States Patent 5,796,614) teaches determining production quantities of said devices planned to be manufactured (Yamada, see at least, col. 3, lines 8-14 and col. 4, lines 16-23 and lines 28-34); exploding each of said devices planned to be manufactured into first level components to generate required first level component values, wherein said first level components include assemblies (Yamada, see at least, col. 3, lines 12-45; FIG 5); exploding each of said assemblies into assembly components to generate required assembly component volumes for each assembly (Yamada, see at least, col. 3, lines 12-45; FIG 5); and wherein said devices share one or more of said components and said assemblies share one or more of said assembly components (Yamada, see at least, FIG. 5).

Yamada neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches performing a minimum profile technique that removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least order minimums, order maximums, leadtimes, transit times, and order sizing. Because the missing features are not found in a reasonable number of references, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have not been motivated to combine the missing features with Yamada.

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4. The following foreign reference has been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention(s). The prior art mostly relates to a system for material requirements and capacity planning.

Brown et al. (PCT WO 94/01826) teaches using a bill of material an exploding levels in order to determine required materials with due date of material in mind (Brown et al., see at least, abstract and FIG. 1).

Brown et al. neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches performing a minimum profile technique that removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least order minimums, order maximums, leadtimes, transit times, and order sizing. Because the missing features are not found in a reasonable number of references, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have not been motivated to combine the missing features with Brown et al.

5. The following non-patent literature has been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention(s). The prior art mostly relates leadtimes being phased out.

Millen teaches leadtimes being phased out for MRP, JIT, etc. (article).

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Millen neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches performing a minimum profile technique that removes specific ordering parameters consisting of at least order minimums, order maximums, leadtimes, transit times, and order sizing. Because the missing features are not found in a reasonable number of references, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have not been motivated to combine the missing features with Millen.

6. Any comments considered necessary by the application must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, show preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments On Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asfand M. Sheikh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1466. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8a-4:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan M. Zeender can be

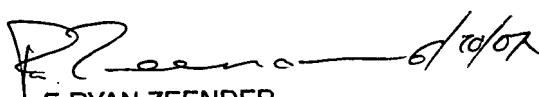
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reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Asfand M Sheikh
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

ams
20-June-2007


F. RYAN ZEENDER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER